IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for automatically detecting a size of a detection object comprising:

a detection object whose size is to be detected;

a background panel which is arranged behind said detection object, said background panel having a mark as a standard and being longer than said detection object; and

a controller for optically scanning arranged to control an optical scan of said detection object and said background panel from forth with said detection object arranged between said background panel and a scanning source, and to automatically detecting the size of said detection object on the basis of a signal signals obtained by electrically converting scanning light reflected light from said background panel and said detection object.

2.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for automatically detecting a size of a detection object comprising:

a detection object whose size is to be detected;

a background panel arranged behind said detection object, said background panel having a mark as a standard and a code pattern arranged along a length direction of said detection

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object when said detection object is arranged for scanning~,

~~and being longer than said detection object~~; and

a controller ~~for optically scanning~~arranged to control an

optical scan of said detection object and said background

panel ~~from forth~~with said detection object arranged between

said background panel and a scanning source, and to

automatically detect~~ing~~ the size of said detection object on

the basis of ~~a~~ signals obtained by electrically converting

~~reflected light~~scanning light from said background panel and

said detection object.

3.   (Currently Amended) An automatic analyzer

comprising:

an analytical unit for analyzing components of a sample

which is an analytical object using a reagent~, a reagent~

~~container for storing said reagent~~;

a sampler unit for holding said sample and executing a

pouring operation so as to transfer said sample of a volume

necessary ~~to~~for analysis to said analytical unit;

a controller for controlling said analytical unit and

said sampler unit; ~~and~~

a power unit for supplying power necessary for operations
of said controller, said analytical unit, and said sampler
unit to said respective units,

wherein an optical information reader for reading
contents of a code pattern label attached to a container for
storing said sample for an object of discrimination is
installed, andincluding a background panel having a mark as a
standard is installed behind said container when said
container is arranged between said background panel and a
scanning source; and

_____means for optically scanning said background panel and
said code pattern by said optical information reader,
measuring a height of said container with said code pattern
attached on the basis of a signal obtained by electrically
converting reflected light, and transmitting a result
indicating said measured height of said container and
discrimination information of said code pattern to said
controller is provided.

4.   (Currently Amended)   An automatic analyzer
comprising:

an analytical unit for analyzing components of a sample
which is an analytical object using a reagent;

a reagent container for storing said reagent~;

_____sampler unit for holding said sample and executing a

pouring operation so as to transfer said sample of a volume

necessary ~to~for analysis to said analytical unit~;

_____a controller composed of an electron circuit including an

MPU, a memory, an I/O unit, and a sequencer for processing

information, and a storage unit, for controlling said

analytical unit and said sampler unit~; ~and~

_____a power unit for supplying power necessary for operations

of said controller, said analytical unit, and said sampler

unit to said respective units;

~wherein~ an optical information reader for reading

contents of a code pattern label attached to a container for

storing said sample ~for~as an object of discrimination ~is~

~installed~, ~and~including a background panel having a mark as a

standard ~is~ installed behind said container when said

container is arranged between said background panel and a

scanning source~; and

_____means for optically scanning said background panel and

said code pattern by said optical information reader,

measuring a height of said container with said code pattern

attached on the basis of a signal obtained by electrically

converting reflected light, and transmitting a result

indicating said measured height of said container and

discrimination information of said code pattern to said

controller ~~is provided~~.

5.   (Original) An apparatus for automatically detecting

a size of a detection object according to Claim 2, wherein

said background panel includes an auxiliary symbol in a

neighborhood of said mark as a standard.

6.   (Original) An automatic analyzer according to Claim

3, wherein said background panel includes an auxiliary symbol

in a neighborhood of said mark as a standard.

7.   (Original) An automatic analyzer according to Claim

4, wherein said background panel includes an auxiliary symbol

in a neighborhood of said mark as a standard.

8.   (New) An apparatus for automatically detecting a

size of a detection object, comprising:

a background panel having a mark as a standard;

an optical scanning information reader which reads a code

pattern by means of scanning light; and

a controller arranged to control an optical scan of said detection object and said background panel with said detection object arranged between said background panel and a scanning source, and to automatically detect the size of said detection object on the basis of a signal obtained by electrically converting reflected light, said controller controlling said optical information reader to scan optically said detection object.

9.   (New)   An apparatus for automatically detecting a size of a detection object, comprising:

a background panel having a mark as a standard and a code pattern arranged along a length direction of said detection object when said detection object is arranged for scanning;

an optical scanning information reader which reads the code pattern by means of scanning light; and

a controller arranged to control an optical scan of said detection object and said background panel with said detection object arranged between said background panel and a scanning source and to automatically detect the size of said detection object on the basis of a signal obtained by electrically converting reflected light, said controller controlling said

optical information reader to scan optically said detection
object.

10.   (New)   An apparatus for automatically detecting a
size of a detection object, comprising:

a background panel having a mark as a standard;

an optical information reader for reading contents of a
code pattern label attached to said detection object for
discrimination; and

means for optically scanning said background panel and
said code pattern by said optical information reader,
measuring a size of said detection object with said code
pattern attached on the basis of a signal obtained by
electrically converting reflected light, and transmitting a
result indicating said measured size of said detection object
and discrimination information of said code pattern to said
controller.